

REPLACEMENT DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are replacement sheets for FIGs. 3A, 3B, and 5, without any markings. The changes to the drawings are explained below, in the "REMARKS" section. All of the drawings on each replacement sheet, as originally filed, are provided herein. The header of each replacement sheet includes the following information: (i) "Replacement Sheet", (ii) application number and (iii) date information. No new matter is added. The Examiner is requested to provide an indication of such consideration in the next Office Action.

REMARKS

Preliminary Remarks

The Final Office Action of June 30, 2005 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Claims 1-8 and 11-14 are currently pending, of which all stand rejected. Claims 1, 5, 11, and 13 are amended to more clearly describe the invention and/or to correct grammatical errors. Specifically, the amendments made to claims 11 and 13 improve readability and/or correct antecedent basis. Claims 3, 7, 9, 10, 12, and 14 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims, but are merely cosmetic changes that give no rise to file wrapper estoppel. The specification and Figures 3A, 3B, and 5 are amended to correct duplicative reference numerals. This Amendment does not add new matter.

Moreover, entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 because it (a) places the application in prima facie condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise new issues requiring further search and/or consideration by the Examiner because similar subject matter was previously considered by the Examiner and thus further consideration and/or search by the Examiner is not warranted; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary; and (e) responds to formal matters set forth by the Examiner.

Applicants believe the rejections of claims 1-8 and 11-14 are moot in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 5, and the cancellation of claims 3, 7, 12, and 14.

In view of the amendments proposed above and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and timely withdrawal of the pending objections and/or rejections. All pending claims now being in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

Objection to Claims

Claims 11 and 13 stand objected to as containing a word "image" that is misspelled. This objection is moot in view of the amendments made to claims 11 and 13, which appropriately correct the misspelling. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of claims 11 and 13.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection, Second Paragraph

Claims 5-8, 13, and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph. This rejection is moot in view of the amendments made to independent claim 5 and to dependent claim 13. Although the adjectives "a" and "an" have been legally interpreted as being open-ended, meaning, for example, that a recitation of "a device" or "an electronic device" does not limit the scope of the claim merely to either a single device or merely to a single electronic device, the Applicants have amended independent claim 5 to provide proper antecedent basis. The amendment of claim 5 further renders claims 6, 8, and 13 allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies on allowable base claim 5, as well as for their added features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5-8, 13, and 14.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,391,137 to Matsushima ("Matsushima"). This rejection is moot in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 5, and the cancellation of claims 3 and 7.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, in pertinent part:

combining the upper substrate and the lower substrate together so that the image display devices are each surrounded by an inner sealant having no plugged openings therein;

Similarly, Claim 5 is amended to recite, in pertinent part:

combining the upper substrate and the lower substrate together so that the image display device is surrounded by an inner sealant having no plugged openings therein;

These recitations contrast with Matsushima, which expressly teaches forming an injection hole 3a in sealant 3, and plugging this hole with sealant after liquid crystal is injected into a display device. Another difference between the invention and Matsushima is that the invention provides a triple sealing system that includes the inner sealant, the outer sealant and the unetchable protecting film. Thus, besides a double-sealant structure (i.e., the inner sealant and outer sealant) for protecting the image display from outside water or oxygen, the invention provides an unetchable protecting film to each lateral side of the combined upper and lower substrates

Because Matsushima fails to disclose either "attaching an unetchable protection film to each lateral side of the combined upper and lower substrate" or "an inner sealant having no plugged openings therein" as recited by each of claims 1 and 5, these claims are now in condition for allowance and issue. Claims 2, 6, and 8 are also in condition for allowance and issue at least by virtue of their dependencies from allowable base claims 1 and 5, as well as for their added features. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-8 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima. Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsushima in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,908,638 issued to Ueda, *et al.* ("Ueda"). These rejections are moot in view of the amendments made to independent base claim 1, from which claim 4 depends, and independent base claim 5, from which claim 13 depends. Claim 14 is canceled. Moreover, with respect to the rejection of claim 13, Ueda fails to cure the deficiencies

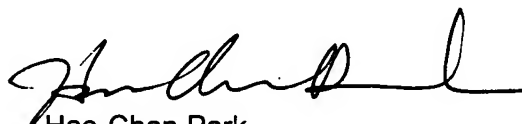
of Matsushima noted above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C.
103(a) rejections of claims 4, 13, and 14 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSIONS

Applicants submit that a full and complete response has been made to the pending Office Action and respectfully submit that all of the stated objections and/or grounds for rejection have been overcome or rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue.

Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the number below to expedite prosecution. Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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